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Gubelin Newsletter #29, Monday, December 14, 2009

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## Headlines:

- \*\*\* Rare 39 ct Golconda diamond sold at Christie's New York auction for USD 5.4 million
- \*\*\* Free Shuttles for New York and Hong Kong successfully launched
- \*\*\* Gubelin appoints Customer Service Representatives for New York and Hong Kong
- \*\*\* Sophisticated chemical analysis by Laser-Ablation ICPMS at no extra cost
- \*\*\* InColor article on emeralds from Silk Road countries
- \*\*\* Article on new source of demantoid garnet at Ambanja, Madagascar
- \*\*\* Dr. Lore Kiefert new Chief Gemmologist at the Gubelin Gem Lab

\*\*\* Rare 39 ct Golconda diamond sold at Christie's New York auction for USD 5.4 million: The highlight of last week's auction at Christie's in New York was "The Evening Star", a 39 ct D-coloured type IIa diamond, which sold for USD 5.4 million. The pear-shaped diamond possesses a purity of colour and an exceptional degree of transparency which are particular to the finest of type IIa natural diamonds. Diamonds of this type and quality are very rare and are believed to come from the historic Indian mines of Golconda. The Gubelin Gem Lab has tested "The Evening Star" and issued one of its rare Golconda Appendices for this exceptional diamond, due to its superb qualities.

\*\*\* Free Shuttles for New York and Hong Kong successfully launched:

Like many other industries, the gemstone trade is affected by the current tough economic environment. Reducing costs is an obvious measure, and the Gubelin Gem Lab is committed to helping clients by offering a free shipping service between two main trading centres and our lab in Switzerland. For several weeks now, Hong Kong and New York have been connected with the Gubelin Gem Lab via a weekly shuttle service which is basically free of charge for our clients. Clients submitting gemstones, diamonds, pearls and jewellery for testing at the Gubelin Gem Lab in Switzerland can now make use of this shuttle service, operated by Malca-Amit.

Hong Kong: The shuttle leaves Hong Kong every Saturday. The deadline for consigning goods at one of the Malca-Amit offices is Saturday 2.00 p.m. The goods are returned to Hong Kong nine days later.

New York: The shuttle leaves New York every Tuesday. The deadline for consigning goods at the Malca-Amit office is Tuesday 12.00 noon. The goods are returned to New York nine days later.

\*\*\* Gubelin appoints Customer Service Representatives for New York and Hong Kong: In addition to the free shuttle service, our clients in New York and Hong Kong can benefit from yet another superb service: they now have a permanent local contact person from the Gubelin Gem Lab in their immediate vicinity. The Gubelin Gem Lab has appointed one Customer Service Representative for New York and another for Hong Kong. Our clients in these two major cities will thus receive dedicated local support. Jane Erglis is taking up

this position in New York, and she can be contacted by e-mail [ny@gubelingemlab.ch](mailto:ny@gubelingemlab.ch) or by telephone (+1) 917 930 4110. Angela Ip is the new Gubelin Customer Service Representative for Hong Kong. Angela can be reached by phone (+852) 9463 3547 or by e-mail [hkg@gubelingemlab.ch](mailto:hkg@gubelingemlab.ch). We are convinced that these two appointments will contribute greatly to the smooth running of our services.

\*\*\* Sophisticated chemical analysis by Laser-Ablation ICPMS at no extra cost:  
The ever-increasing number of possible origins and treatments encourages gem labs to invest heavily in new analytical methods. The Gubelin Gem Lab has done this ever since it was founded more than 80 years ago, and continues to do so today. By acquiring our own Laser-Ablation ICPMS system four years ago, we have set a new standard for the level of equipment used in today's gem labs. Meanwhile, this quasi non-destructive analysis is routinely applied on gems, improving our ability to determine the origin of gemstones and detect treatments. We invite our clients to read the latest version of our General Terms and Conditions, which contain more detailed information about the Laser Ablation ICPMS analysis. As this method is considered a standard routine, we are not imposing any extra charge.

\*\*\* InColor article on emeralds from Silk Road countries:  
The latest issue of the InColor magazine ([www.gemstone.org](http://www.gemstone.org)) features an article on emeralds from the Western Himalayan mountain range, authored by Dr. Dietmar Schwarz, Head of Research at the Gubelin Gem Lab, and Vincent Pardieu, who was visiting this area on behalf of the Gubelin Gem Lab back in 2006. The article compares the emeralds from these Silk Road countries with those from Colombia. The authors state that the so-called Bactrian emeralds from old Hindu treasures (dating from as early as 1000 AD) come from Afghanistan and Pakistan. In contrast, the Colombian emeralds were mined by natives before the arrival of the Spanish in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and were then brought to Europe and Asia.

\*\*\* Article on new source of demantoid garnet at Ambanja, Madagascar  
One of the most coveted gems of the garnet family is the green, chromium-bearing andradite, called demantoid. After the first discovery of demantoid in the Ural mountains, Russia, other occurrences were found in Namibia, Iran and Italy. A new andradite deposit was discovered near Ambanja in the north of Madagascar at the end of 2008. The latest issue of Gems & Jewellery, a magazine of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain, features a publication by Dr. Karl Schmetzer and Dr. Stefanos Karampelas, research scientist at the Gubelin Gem Lab, about the demantoids from this new deposit. The Madagascan demantoids are characterised by fairly low contents of chromium.

\*\*\* Dr. Lore Kiefert new Chief Gemmologist at the Gubelin Gem Lab:  
We proudly announce that Dr. Lore Kiefert has assumed the position of Chief Gemmologist at the Gubelin Gem Lab. Lore is one of the most seasoned and knowledgeable gemmologists and she has gained an untarnished reputation among scientists and in the gem trade for the quality and integrity of her work. She completed her

Master's thesis on the origin of sapphires, before moving on to Australia for her PhD studies, which she completed in 1996. After more than 10 years at the SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute Lore went to New York to head the AGTA Gemological Testing Center as Laboratory Director, until she decided to come back to Europe to join Gubelin in October 2009. Lore has authored and co-authored numerous publications in gemmological and scientific journals, as well as chapters in textbooks such as the Handbook of Raman Spectroscopy. She regularly gives gemmological lectures at conferences, and is on the editorial review board of "Gems & Gemology".

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